Transport subsidy on fertilizer distribution to H.P.

† 2808. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given in principle approval to grant an additional subsidy in transporting fertilizers to Himachal Pradesh, like Jammu and Kashmir and North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, when and whether it is also a fact that the issue was raised by the officials of State Government in the meeting of National Council held in Delhi, in March, 2000;

(c) if so, whether Government have granted the administrative and financial approval in this respect; and

(d) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor and by when this facility would be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India had earlier decided to extend additional transportation subsidy for decontrolled P & K fertilizers to the Himachal Pradesh on similar lines as in the case of Jammu and Kashmir and North-Eastern States including Sikkim. Subsequently, the Government has approved, in principle, the rates for transportation of these fertilizers to the Himachal Pradesh and the notification to this effect is being issued in consultation with the State Government. The freight cost for transportation of urea to the Himachal Pradesh is reimbursed under equated freight scheme.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.